

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
PHONE (305) 545-2400 FAX (305) 545-2418**

INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. Case #: 89-0346

DATE: FEB/01/1989

TYPE: A

HARRIS, VANESSA (REMAINS, (AKA)

22 YEAR(S) BLACK

FEMALE

D.O.B. DEC/22/1966

6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA

SS#:

PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 6:30PM FEB/01/1989

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: MIAMI-DADE 56311-J/AL

INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

SAH

ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 A NEIGHBOR HOOD RESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DISCOVERED THE BODY OF AN APPARENT FEMALE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DECOMPOSITION IN THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST TERRACE WHICH IS AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS. THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD. DECEASED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION.

**CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS.
6/8/89-DJM.**

REFILED:

MANNER: HOMICIDE

AUTOPSY

FEB/08/1989

DOCTOR: SAH

MORTUARY: POITIER

INVESTIGATOR: CHRISTMAS, AUDREY B.

**THIS REPORT MAY CONTAIN NON-VERIFIED INFORMATION
AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400
INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. CASE NO. 89-0346 A
DATE FEB/01/89

HARRIS, VANESSA (REMAINS, UNKNOWN) A.K.A. (VANISE)
22 BLACK FEMALE DOB DEC/22/66
6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA

PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.
TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 6:30PM FEB/01/89

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #56311-J/ALVAREZ

INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.
JAN/00/89 UNK SCENE M.E. STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.

HISTORY: ADU

ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 A NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DISCOVERED THE BODY OF AN APPARENT FEMALE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DECOMPOSITION IN THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST TERRACE WHICH IS AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS. THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD. DECEASED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS.
REFILED: 6/8/89-DJM.

MANNER: HOMICIDE DATE AUTOPSY FEB/08/89 BY STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.

MORTUARY: POITIER ADU

MORTUARY: FOITIER

ADU

MANNER: HOMICIDE

DATE AUTOPSY

FEB/08/89

BY STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.

REFILED: 6/8/89-DJM.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS.

ADU

HISTORY: JAN/01/89 UNK

INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #56344-J/ALVAREZ

TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 6:30PM FEB/01/89

PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA

HARRIS, VANESSA (REMAINS, UNKNOWN) A.K.A. (VANISE)

22 BLACK FEMALE DOB DEC/22/66

M.E. CASE NO. 89-0346 A

DATE FEB/01/89

INVESTIGATION REPORT

NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINE DEPARTMENT

ADU

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400
INVESTIGATION REPORT

HARRIS, VENISE (REMAINS, UNKNOWN)
22 BLACK FEMALE DOB DEC/22/66
6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA
PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.
TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 6:30PM FEB/01/89
INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #56344-J/ALVAREZ
INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.
JAN/01/89 UNK SCENE M.E. STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.
HISTORY: ADU

ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 A NEIGHBOR
HOOD RESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DIS-
COVERED THE BODY OF AN APPARENT FEMALE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DECOMPOSITION IN
THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET WHICH IS
AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS. THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM
OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD.
DECEASED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORRED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN
AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION.

MANNER: UNCCLASSIFIED DATE AUTOPSY FEB/08/89 BY STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.
MORTUARY: POTTIER ADU

CAUSE OF DEATH: PENDING FURTHER STUDY.

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name...HARRIS, Vanessa a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise.....Case No. 89-0346

SCENE OBSERVATIONS

DATE: February 1, 1989
LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81st Terrace
TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE: 10:10 p.m.
POLICE AGENCY: Metro Dade Police Department
LEAD INVESTIGATOR: Detective Alvarez

INITIAL INFORMATION:

According to police, the owner of an empty lot and a neighbor were picking fruit in the lot when they smelled an odor and observed an extremely decomposed body.

OBSERVATIONS OF SURROUNDINGS:

The night is dry. The empty lot is next to an unused house said to be used as a "crack" house. Brush and small bushes grow over most of the field. At the periphery are small trees including a few citrus trees. Among these trees, next to a fence, at the opposite side from the house and two-thirds of the way between the street and the back of the lot is the body.

Debris, including old clothing, is scattered over most of the field.

OBSERVATIONS OF VICTIM(S):

The remains are skeletonized with adherent dried, brown, leathery skin over the trunk and extremities. The head is towards the fence and the feet towards the house. The body is supine with the legs spread apart. A discolored, short sleeve tee shirt is on the torso, pushed up exposing the chest. Around the right ankle are blue-green and black panties, and a cotton skirt is bunched up between the legs near the feet. A flannel shirt is near the skirt. A pair of blue womens shoes is near the body towards the feet.

Numerous holes are in the leathery skin and, in some areas, roots have grown through the skin and among the bones. The sex cannot be determined externally.

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name...HARRIS, Vanessa a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise.....Case No. 89-0346

Near the skull are a tooth and a mass of kinky black and gray hair.

SCENE IMPRESSION INCLUDING PROBABLE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH:

Unclassified.

NOTE: The foregoing is of a speculative nature and subject to modification pending additional information and investigation.

Stephanie A. Horowitz
Stephanie A. Horowitz, M.D.
Associate Medical Examiner

SAH:jl

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
INVESTIGATION REPORT

89-346
Police Case No. 56311J

NAME OF THE DECEASED: _____ Age _____ Race _____ Sex _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Social Security No. _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____

Place of Death _____

Death Occurred _____ 19_____, _____ M. in the presence of _____
or
Found Dead 02-01 1989 630P M. by ANNIE CUNNINGHAM

Identified by _____ Address _____

Date/Time Viewed by Investigator 02-01 1989 9P M. Medical Examiner at Scene S. Horowitz

HISTORY: (What happened just prior to death and when was victim last seen alive?) NEIGHBOR (had
RESENT Packing FROST IN FIELD, WHICH BELONGS TO HER FRIEND),
DISCOVERED BODY IN FIELD. THE FIELD IS JUST NORTH OF 1726
N.W. 81st, WHICH IS AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY CRACK
COCAIN USES. TRASH IS THE FORM OF CLOTHES, BOTTLES
AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS, ~~THE OBSERVED~~ THROUGHOUT THE
FIELD.

Possible manner of death UNCLASS

If Violent Death: Date/Time of Incident _____ 19_____, _____ M. Weapon/Cal. _____

Exact Location/Address of Incident 1726 N.W. 81st At work _____
(Specify Street, Parking Lot, Bar etc.)

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT COLORED SHIRT SOUTH/NORTH NORTH

Position/Location of Body: SUPINE IN FIELD ON EAST/WEST AXIS, HEAD WEST.

Lividity: Yes _____ No / Consistent _____ Body Heat: Warm: _____ Cool / Cold _____

Rigor Mortis: None / Slight _____ Full _____ Decomposition: None _____ Slight _____ Advanced /

Trauma: Yes _____ No / Describe SEVERELY DECOMPOSED, UNABLE TO
DETERMINE.

NAMES OF DOCTORS/HOSPITALS who attended deceased during life: _____

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN: _____ Relation _____

Address _____ Telephone _____ Notified: Yes _____ No _____

Valuables and Disposition None / Handcuffs Medication to M.E.: Yes _____ No /

Investigating Agency MDPD Report Submitted by L. ALVAREZ Date: 2-1, 1989 9P M.

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

DATE 2/4/89
mo. day yr.

CASE INFORMATION

3:50 PM.
time

89-346
M.E. Case #

REC'D. GAI
DET. ALVAREZ

HARRIS, Venise

DOB: 12/22/64

AKA: 6322 N.W. - 6th AVENUE

JKT #: 321440

ID by fingerprints

Will be going to address to
Notify family members.

A. Burns 7:40 PM

Rec'd call
Det. Alvarez
W/o/k - Mother - has been notified
Geraldine Harris
779 NW 63 ST. #3
miami, Fl.
758-1527

J. Burns

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 2/7/89
mo. day yr.

10:35 A.m.
time

89-346
M.E. Case #

Reference: Harris, V.

Received a call from mother,
Mrs. Harris 758-1527.

Deceased visited D.C. Health Dept.
1350 N.W. 14th Street — 9/1/88.

Arrested latter part 1987.

Dade County Jail — Tonsil pain, abscess
on tooth. tooth probably removed while
in jail.

Jail # 547-7003

Arrest # 321440

Cayector

10:55 A.m.

called D.C. Jail Clinic

Mrs. Missick, Mary, she will check records and
547-7003 return the phone call A.S.A.P.

Received call, Mrs. Missick, no dental records
found. Asked to call Miami jail
Dentist's office — 547-7278, ask for
Gail Number. Cayector



DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 2/13/89
mo. day yr.

11:45 Am
time

89-346
M.E. Case #

Reference: Venise Harris

Called Jackson here.

Med. Records

12/22/66 - #1285555

Records were requested.

efaytor

Feb. 7, 1989 10:15 Am

Called Dr. Brugge, Joe

Asked if teeth on this case had been charted?

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 2/2/89
mo. day yr.

3:50 PM
time

89-346
M.E. Case #

- Deceased is probably a black female
- Several missing molar teeth, little or no dental work on remaining teeth.
- Wearing a white T-Shirt, blue sandals.
- Height approx. 5'3".

SAC

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
1050 N.W. 19 St., Miami, FL 33136
(305) 549-7337

CASE INFORMATION

DATE mo. day yr.

time

M.E. Case #

TELEPHONE MESSAGE

No 000164	
DATE CALL RECEIVED	TIME
2-7-89	3:35 pm
WHO CALLED	DET. Alvarez
FIRM	Metro
DAY, STATE	
PHONE	547-7456 AREA CODE
<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN-CALL, DATE, TIME	
<input type="checkbox"/> WILL CALL AGAIN, DATE, TIME	
CALL TAKEN BY	
cr	

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DEPT.
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136-1133

MESSAGE FOR *SAT*

MESSAGE

re: V

89-346

DAY-TIMERS RE-ORDER No. 3214 — Printed in USA

2/7/89 4:55 pm Returned call. Det. Alvarez is out
of the office. SAT.

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 2/8/89
mo. day yr.

time 8:10 AM

89-0346
M.E. Case #

COD: Pending further study
MOD: Unclassified

S. Thompson

Do not release remains until
OK'd by S.M.

2/8/89 4:18 PM

Remains may be released.

S. Thompson

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 2-1-89
mo. day yr.

9:35 pm
time

M.E. Case #

Det
Alvarez
MDPD

Requesting M.E.

1726 N.W. 81 Terr.
3/F
Decomposed body in
= Field near
Abandoned
House.

9:40
Dr. Horowitz will respond.

Need Touch
wagon
10:30pm

Guns
Shotel

RECEIVED BY	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
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RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
Final Disposition			AUTHORITY	DATE & TIME OF DISPOSITION

PROPERTY RELEASE INFORMATION

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

DRIVERS LICENSE NO.: _____

OTHER I.D.: _____

RELEASED BY: SIGNATURE _____

PRINT NAME _____

DATE/TIME: _____

PROPERTY RECEIPT

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
Number One on Bob Hope Road
Miami, Florida 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

M.E. CASE # 89-346MEDICAL EXAMINER D. Horowitz

(IF NOT KNOWN, USE UNK)

DECEDENT'S NAME: Unknown RemainsAGE _____ RACE _____ SEX _____ TYPE OF CASE UnclassifiedPOLICE AGENCY: MDPD POLICE CASE # 56311J

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION (itemize currency by denomination)
1	7	<u>fingprints for fingerprinting</u> <u>Last 1 from</u>

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all the property impounded by me in the official performance of my duty as a Medical Examiner, District 11.

Stephanie A. Horowitz MD Print Stephanie A. Horowitz Sign

DATE / TIME OBTAINED: 2/2/89 MO. 2 DAY 2 YR. 89 TIME 3 PM AM./PM.

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all property received by/from the Medical Examiner Department.

M.E. Courier: DET. L. ALVAREZ Print L. Alvarez Sign

DATE / TIME OBTAINED: 2 M 2 D 89 Y TIME 3:00 AM./PM.

Receiving Party: _____ Print _____ Agency _____

Date & Time Released: _____ AM./PM.
MO. DAY YR. TIME

RECEIVED BY	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED

(Cont'd on back)

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

DECEASED'S VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF DECEASED unk M.E. CASE NO. 89-386

TIME 1145 pm DATE 2-1-89
M D YR

AGE _____ RACE _____ SEX _____ HEIGHT 17+17+29 = 63 = 5'3"

WEIGHT (with clothes) 16 (without clothes) _____ (with wet clothes) _____

FINGERPRINTED: YES _____ NO X _____

MALE

CLOTHES

FEMALE

SHOES _____ SOCKS _____ SHOES _____ STOCKING _____ SOCKS _____

JACKET _____ SWEATER _____ COAT _____ SWEATER _____ JACKET _____

TIE _____ SHIRT _____ DRESS _____ BLOUSE ✓ SKIRT _____

TROUSERS _____ SHORTS _____ BELT _____ SHORTS _____ SLACKS _____

UNDERSHIRT _____ T SHIRT _____ UNDERSHORTS _____ SLIP _____ PANTIES _____ CORSET _____ BRA _____

PAJAMAS _____ PAJAMAS _____ GOWN _____

DENTURES: U. _____ L. _____ TRUSS _____ DENTURES: U. _____ L. _____

MISCELLANEOUS _____ MISCELLANEOUS _____

VALUABLES

(List all money, jewelry, keys, personal papers & other valuables)

None

RECEIVED BY T. D. Clark MORGUE ATTENDANT WITNESS PFS

REMOVED FROM M.E. OFFICE BY

BODY _____ REPRESENTING _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

CLOTHES _____ REPRESENTING _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

VALUABLES _____ REPRESENTING _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

POITIER FUNERAL HOME

2300 NORTHWEST 62ND STREET

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33147

(305) 638-5030 or 638-5031

BERNARD C. POITIER, SR. • ALFONSO M. RICHARDSON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

M.E.

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby designate the above-named funeral establishment to take charge of funeral arrangements for: Venise Harris, and I authorize the release and removal of the remains to said funeral establishment for the purpose of embalming.

I represent that I am the next of kin, or am acting as an authorized agent for the next of kin.

Signed: Besaldine Harris

Relationship: Mother

Co-Signed: _____

Relationship: _____

WITNESS:

F. B.

DATE:

Feb. 4, 1989

FOR VERBAL (TELEPHONE) AUTHORIZATION:

Authorization from _____

Relationship _____

Date _____ Time _____ Received by _____

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
FLORIDA

CAL FILE NO.

DECEDENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last)

2. SEX

DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) Found: Feb. 1, 1989

4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

5a. AGE-Last Birthday
(years)5b. UNDER 1 YEAR
Months5c. UNDER 1 DAY
Hours

Minutes

8. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S.
ARMED FORCES? (Yes or No)

DECE

7.

9a.

9bde.

10. GIVE KIND OF
WORK DONE
DURING MOST
OF WORKING
LIFE. DO NOT
USE RETIRED.

13.

PARENTS

DISPOSITION

CERTIFIER

Part Ia.

9.

10a.

10b.

11.

12.

13a.

13b.

13c.

13d.

13e.

13f.

14.

Specify:

17.

18.

19a.

19b.

20a.

21a.

►

22a.

(Signature and Title) ►

22b.

22c.

M

22d.

►

23a.

(Signature and Title) ►

23b.

23c.

M

23d.

►

24.

►

25a.

►

25b.

►

25c.

►

26.

►

27a.

►

27b.

►

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29.

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30a.

►

30b.

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31.

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32a.

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32b.

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32c.

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32d.

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32e.

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32f.

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HRS Form 512,
Jan. 89 (Obsolete
Previous Editions)

djm

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METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA



MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD
N.W. 9TH AVENUE AT 18TH STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

RELEASE OF CASE MATERIALS

Date _____
Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

M.E. Case # 89-346 Deceased Name Venise Harris

- Autopsy Report
- Slide Duplication / Photo
- 2 Pages
- Verification of Death
- Glass Micro Slides
- Micro Slide Case

Release to (Receiving Party Please Print):

Name Donna Genrke

Address Hensel

Signature of Receiving Party Dan Schlueter

Official Receipt # _____

Remarks:

Released By _____
Print Name _____

Nov. 6, 1984

Miami-Herald

89-0346
11-10-84

Suspect is linked to 19th slaying

By DONNA GEHRKE
Herald Staff Writer

Charles Henry Williams, already the prime suspect in the slayings of 18 inner-city women, has been linked to the murder of another: a

20-year-old who, like three other victims, was seen with him on her last day alive.



Sandra Jackson, only four foot eight and 84 pounds, was alone with six-foot-three Williams, a convicted rapist known for choking his victims, on March 23 after the two had visited with Jackson's cousin. Her body was found the next day in a wooded vacant lot at Northwest 13th Place and 38th Street.

Williams "was one of the last individuals seen with her alive," said

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS, 2B

Convicted rapist linked to 19th slaying

WILLIAMS, FROM 1B

Tony Rodriguez, Miami homicide detective.

Like many of the 18 other victims, Jackson was found nude and asphyxiated in Northwest Dade, lying on her back with her legs spread. Homicide detectives believe Williams, a baby-faced former maintenance worker, may be responsible for the 19 slayings — and perhaps more — because the methods of murder are strikingly similar.

"We've never had this many that seemed to fall into a pattern," said Dr. Joseph Davis, Dade's medical examiner.

Williams, 33, has been in the Dade County Jail for the past six months but has not been charged in any of the murders. He was charged with two counts of rape unrelated to the slayings. Metro and Miami homicide detectives say they don't have enough proof — even though he first murder came under investigation more than a year ago.

Williams has admitted to police that he knew some of the victims, but he steadfastly denied killing anyone.

The slayings stopped once Williams was jailed in early April on the rape charges.

The first of the 19 victims — 18 of them black and one Hispanic — was found dead in July 1987.

Jackson was victim No. 15. The bodies of four other women were found before Williams was arrested in early April. Miami police did not disclose Jackson's connection to Williams and the other homicide victims until detectives recently gave depositions in court.

Jackson, a former cook in a sandwich shop, went by the name Sonia because she hated her given name. "She was my sweet baby," said her boyfriend Kirk Stevens, the father of her 2-year-old son, also named Kirk.

Like many of the other 18 victims, Jackson was a drug addict "doing tricks for crack," her family told investigators.

Just before her murder, she was desperately trying to break her

crack habit, said Vincent Lawrence, a distant relative who unsuccessfully tried to find a rehabilitation program for her. "I couldn't find anything free for her," he said.

On March 24, a man working in his yard found Jackson's strangled body next door in an overgrown lot in the Brownsville neighborhood. A brown coat covered her nude body. Her shoes were found nearby.

In the next 11 days, four more bodies of women were found. Two of them had been badly beaten and strangled, as Jackson was.

On March 26, the body of Angela Williams, 23, was found in an open field at Northwest 21st Avenue and 68th Street. The killer had beaten her face, breaking her jaw and teeth.

A week later, in another vacant lot at Northwest 23rd Avenue and 46th Street, children found the body of Brenda Hernandez, 24, whose chest and neck were battered like Jackson's.

Williams was picked up near the Hernandez murder site by homicide detectives a day after the body was found.

As in Jackson's case, witnesses saw Williams with Hernandez on the last day of her life.

Jailers later found scratches on Williams' back and fresh bite marks on his penis.

Metro homicide detective Joseph McMahon said Williams readily talked to homicide detectives.

Investigators said Williams told them he had been with some of the victims — but they were alive when he left them.

He said people in the neighborhood who say he is the murderer are picking on him. They didn't like him, Williams complained.

From canvassing Brownsville after the murders, police found at least two women who said they had survived attacks by Williams. The investigators and the alleged victim described the attacks in recent depositions.

One, an admitted prostitute, told McMahon that she had been raped and choked to unconsciousness in March by a man known on the streets as "Bumper" or "Bump."

McMahon showed her a Polaroid of Williams.

That's him, she said.

She said she hadn't gone to police sooner because she didn't think officers "give a damn" about street hookers or prostitutes. McMahon said in a deposition.

The second victim said she was raped by Williams in the Brownsville neighborhood on March 18, six days before Jackson's body was found.

"She said at first, he had grabbed her in a choke hold, putting his arm around her neck," Miami homicide detective Frank Castillo said in a deposition. "She said that he had her under control." She "couldn't" get away from him. The harder she would try to push away, the tighter the choke would get around her neck."

The two women pressed rape charges against Williams. He is scheduled to go to trial Nov. 13. But the trial is likely to be postponed for a third time. Prosecutor Dennis Siegel is planning to be out of the state that week to attend a seminar.

Meanwhile, police remain close-mouthed about the homicide investigation.

Williams' defense attorney, Howard Landau, believes homicide in-

vestigators are now conducting genetic DNA tests to see if they can trace back to Williams any body fluids found on the victims. The tests are usually done to connect rapists to their victims, usually through semen.

Despite Landau's objections, the Dade state attorney's office recently obtained a court order to take blood and saliva samples from Williams.

Miami homicide detective Rodriguez wouldn't talk about the genetic tests. "We're following up every avenue that's available to us that can assist us in these investigations," he said.

Rodriguez and John Farrell, Metro chief of detectives, said officers have pursued dozens of leads without the breakthrough they were counting on.

"Unfortunately, we haven't been able to put together anything of significance," Rodriguez said. "It's just a shame. It's a tragedy. I really feel that somebody out there saw or heard something that could help us solve at least one of these cases."

"Serial killers don't stop killing," he said. "They either get arrested, they die or they move somewhere and continue."

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE _____
mo. day yr.

time _____

89-0346
M.E. Case #

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1989

THE MIAMI HERALD

SECTION B

Dead women had links to rapist

By DONNA GEHRKE
Herald Staff Writer

Where Charles Henry Williams went, women died.

Four were killed near his family home in Overtown. A fifth was a neighbor. Four more died in a North Dade prostitution zone where the tall baby-faced 32-year-old used to wander. Two others were found just outside the area. And two were murdered in a Brownsville neighborhood where he used to smoke crack.

Williams tells police it's coincidence.

Homicide detectives think it's a pattern.

Police say the convicted rapist is a suspect in these 13 slayings and five others, which date back more than two years. They called a press conference 2½ months ago to announce their suspicion. But they haven't yet charged



Convicted rapist Charles Henry Williams, left, says connections to the dead women are a coincidence. Police see a pattern, but they haven't charged Williams with murder.

Williams with murder.

The killings stopped once Williams was jailed last April on two unrelated rape charges.

"He's the best thing we've got," said Metro homicide Sgt. Frank Wesolowski, who

heads his department's investigation into 11 of the deaths. "He is the No. 1 suspect."

In recent weeks, The Herald has found more links to Williams and the deaths. Court records and interviews with police, witnesses and victims' families show:

■ At least three victims were seen with Williams on the day they died.

■ Two women who pressed the current rape charges against Williams say he tried to choke them to death in Brownsville — the same neighborhood where two victims died, within the same few weeks.

■ Another woman filed attempted-murder charges against Williams for a choking attack just hours after she had introduced him to one of her friends — who later was found murdered.

■ Williams frequented the same places — a crack den, a prostitution zone — that several of the victims did.

Williams is scheduled to go to trial next week on the two rape charges. The trial might

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS, 3B

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133
(305) 545-2400

DECEASED'S VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF DECEASED unk M.E. CASE NO. 89-386

TIME 1145 pm DATE 2-1-89
M D YR

AGE _____ RACE _____ SEX _____ HEIGHT 17+17+29=63=5'3"

WEIGHT (with clothes) 16 (without clothes) _____ (with wet clothes) _____

FINGERPRINTED: YES _____ NO X _____

MALE

CLOTHES

FEMALE

SHOES _____ SOCKS _____ SHOES _____ STOCKING _____ SOCKS _____

JACKET _____ SWEATER _____ COAT _____ SWEATER _____ JACKET _____

TIE _____ SHIRT _____ DRESS _____ BLOUSE V SKIRT _____

TROUSERS _____ SHORTS _____ BELT _____ SHORTS _____ SLACKS _____

UNDERSHIRT _____ T SHIRT _____ UNDERSHORTS _____ SLIP _____ PANTIES _____ CORSET _____ BRA _____

PAJAMAS _____ PAJAMAS _____ GOWN _____

DENTURES: U. _____ L. _____ TRUSS _____ DENTURES: U. _____ L. _____

MISCELLANEOUS _____ MISCELLANEOUS _____

VALUABLES

(List all money, jewelry, keys, personal papers & other valuables)

None

RECEIVED BY T. L. D. Blak MORGUE ATTENDANT WITNESS P.F.S.

REMOVED FROM M.E. OFFICE BY

BODY Benton REPRESENTING Po'tier DATE 2-10-89 TIME 1:40pm

CLOTHES Benton REPRESENTING Po'tier DATE 2-10-89 TIME 1:40pm

VALUABLES _____ REPRESENTING _____ DATE _____ TIME 1:40pm

3 victims were seen with rapist the day they died

WILLIAMS, FROM 1B

be postponed to give Williams' new court-appointed attorney, Howard Landau, a chance to prepare a defense.

Landau, who helped win an acquittal for Williams in a 1986 rape trial, won't comment on the case or the homicide investigation. Nor will he allow his client to speak to The Herald.

In statements to police, Williams has denied killing the women.

Born in Georgia, he grew up in a neatly kept Overtown townhouse with his mother, brother and sister.

By 1986, he had been accused of seven rapes — including assaults on two 15-year-old schoolgirls — and was profiled in The Herald as a career criminal who knew how to plea bargain and beat the system.

His accusers describe the same modus operandi: He starts with sweet talk and suddenly turns vicious as he chokes his victims unconscious.

Two years ago when Williams was out of jail, young women started dying mysteriously in his Overtown neighborhood. They were found almost nude, their legs spread and no visible trauma.

Miami cops were puzzled. Initial autopsies turned up a new theory — later debunked by Medical Examiner Joe Davis — that the women died because they combined sex and cocaine once too often.



VICTIM: Brenda Hernandez was seen with Williams the day she was strangled.

They were well-known in the Overtown neighborhood as heavy crack-users.

So was Williams.

"He'd say, 'I've got money. Let's get drugs,'" remembered neighbor Audrey Salles.

One of Williams' teen-age neighbors took him up on the offer in April 1988 — and was found dead hours later, said the victim's best friend, Aida Rodriguez, 17.

She said Williams offered her and 16-year-old Sharmanita Grays "some weed" when they went to the Bay Point Motel, 3530 Biscayne Blvd. Later, Rodriguez left her friend with a heavily perspiring, crack-using Williams who wouldn't let her back into the room.

That's the last time Rodriguez saw Grays alive. Her body was found hours later sprawled, legs apart and nearly nude, on a stairwell at the motel.

Rodriguez told Miami homicide investigators her suspicions. Miami police have since refused to discuss the case.

Since then, two other victims were seen with Williams on their last day.

In October 1988, Williams sought sex from prostitute Erica Edwards on the night she died near the hooker zone on Northwest 79th Street, said witness Beverly Gunder James.

She said Williams, identifying himself as "Tony," approached her on Oct. 22, 1988, at the Tropicana Bar, 1057 NW 79th St.

"He came out of the bushes," James said in a telephone interview. "He asked me where I was going, and I said to the bar. He asked if I 'dated' [slang for hooking], and I said no. He asked if I smoked cocaine and I said no. He asked me if I knew anyone who did."

"I said yes — Erica."

She said she then introduced him

to Edwards.

"I said, 'Erica, this is Tony. He seems like a nice guy. Be nice to him,'" Edwards said.

The next morning, Edwards' body was discovered in a nearby field. She had been dead for hours.

That same day, James told police, Williams grabbed her from behind and choked her. "He picked me off the ground and put a hook on me and I couldn't spring loose," she said.

"The man was on top of me," she added. "I was on my stomach."

A neighbor saw the attack and scared him off, she said.

Five days later — and after three more women had been found dead in the area — James spotted Williams at a friend's house near the hooker zone.

Metro police arrested him there on attempted second-degree murder charges.

He was released in early December after prosecutors dropped the case. They couldn't find James. She moved to Oklahoma soon after the assault.

Five months later, Williams was seen with victim Brenda Hernandez on the day she was strangled in an open field in Brownsville, police told her mother, Mercedes Hernandez.

The victim had lived just a few blocks from a crack den near J & J Groceries at 2656 NW 46th St. where Williams hung out.

Two other victims, Barbara Ann

Black and Barbara Lattimore, hung out at the same crack den, several witnesses said. "He liked the girls," remembered store owner John Bennett.

Williams was arrested at the crack den when he tried to run from

detectives investigating Hernandez's murder.

While canvassing the neighbor-

hood for witnesses, detectives ran

into a woman who said Williams had

raped her in the same neighborhood

two weeks earlier.

She said she was initially fooled by

his appearance. "A clean-cut guy,"

she noted.

She agreed to Williams' offer:

\$10, two cocaine rocks and half a

pound of marijuana for sex. The

next thing she knew, he was choking

her and forcing her to have sex.

"The man chokes you like he in-

tends to kill you. It's not a choke

where he's playing with you at all.

He wants to kill you," she said in a

sworn statement.

"The look on the guy's face — it totally changed from that nice personality, nice gentleman, hard-working gentleman to a damn maniac," she testified.

Metro detectives charged Williams with rape.

Within a week, Miami police followed with another rape charge. A woman from Brownsville accused Williams of choking and raping her in March.

Since early April, Williams has been in jail, lately in solitary.

"He's there for his own protection based on his notoriety," said Dade Jail Lt. Jim Wood.

Williams passes his days watching TV or talking to another prisoner — Charlie Street, accused killer of two Metro officers.

Williams has impressed Lt. Wood with his politeness and quiet demeanor. "He seems calm and com- placent."

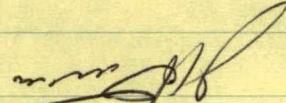
54-346

To D. McR. 6/13/62

Correct date of injury

Slender & he was well 1989 on the

Summer left because of Tom O'Gorman
in the hospital



in the hospital

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION OF PENDING CASE

(THIS FORM IS TO BE USED BY A MEDICAL EXAMINER WHEN A PENDING CASE IS TO BE CLASSIFIED. MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS AN APPROVAL BY EITHER THE CHIEF OR DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER BEFORE COMPLETING THE NECESSARY FORMS AND CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY THE STATE.)

M.E. Case # 89-346Name (if known) Venise HarrisCause of Death: Homicide by undetermined means
(Item 24)

Due to:

Due to:

Contributory Cause:

Manner of Death: Homicide
(Item 27a)How Incident Occurred:
(Item 27d)

Rationale for Classification:

The skeletonized and partly
mummified body of this black female was found
in a seldom frequented location (abandoned empty
lot) with the clothing of the lower body removed
and the lips spread. Although no acute bony
injury was identified the circumstances are such that
homicide is likely.

Sylvester A. Johnson Jr.
Medical Examiner6/5/81
M - D - Y
DateApproved by J. H. Davis6/5/81
M - D - Y
DateTo Dr. McRae
I have the
full file
J. H. D.

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SCX

Other Dmg:

A/C/H:

Other:

I.U. Neck:

N/A

Lips:

Other Eyes:

Preservation Status: Slight foul smell - No unusual findings

Clothing/Cover: Torn shirt up, perhaps around neck, slight abrasions

Position: Supine, legs spread

Size Characters: Head of abnormally large

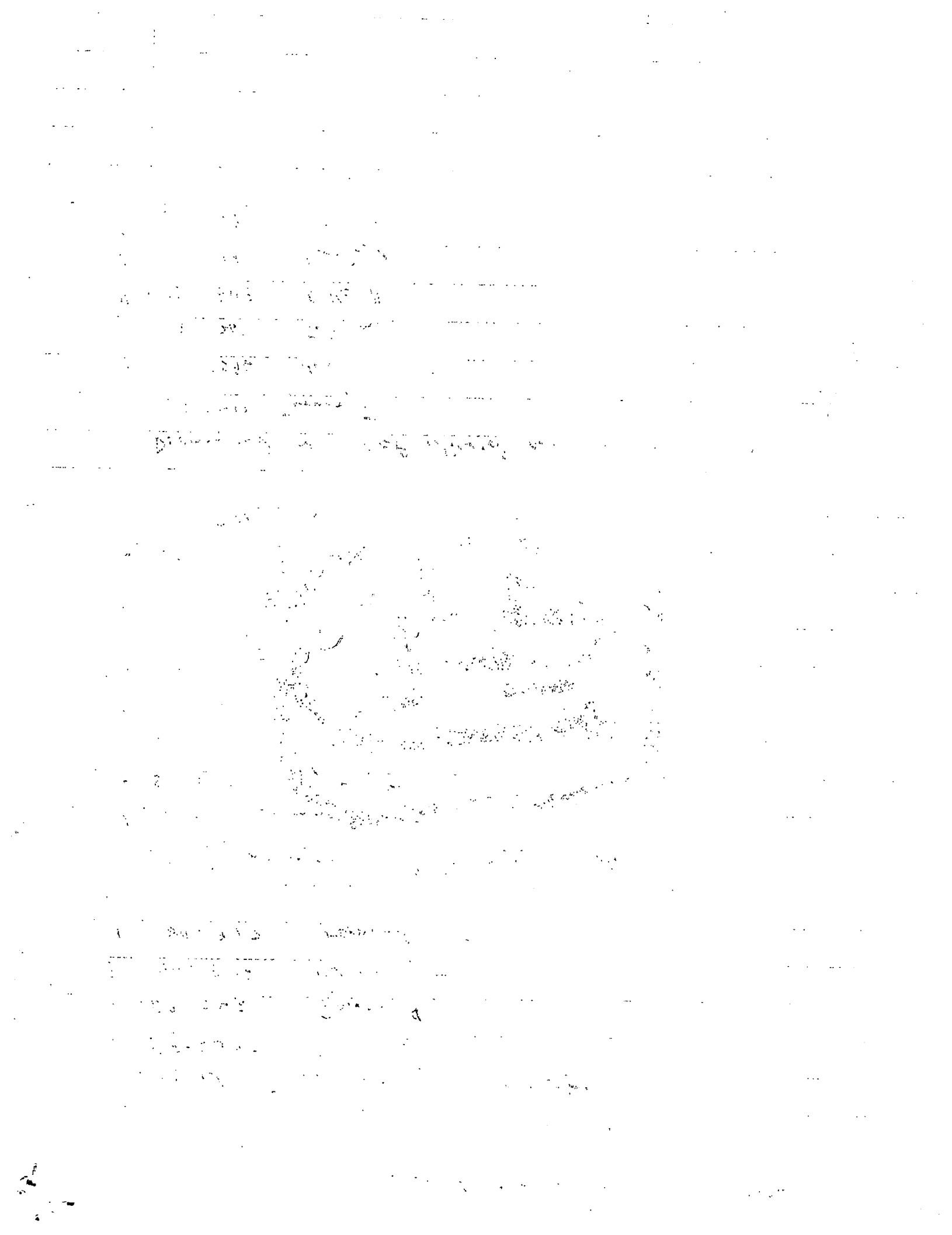
Coordinates: NW 17 Ave. 81 St

Date Found: 2/11/89
Police No.: 5-63115 - NW 17

Age/Race: 22 B
Police: WDPD

NAME: Harris, Dennis
ME No.: 89-346

CASE REVIEW
J.H. DAVIS, M.D.



89-346

Master List - Study of 19 Cases

Already classified as Homicide

- 1 88-3093 Black, B.
- 2 89-243 Spires, A
- 3 89-906 Williams, A
- 4 89-997 Hernandez, B

Well preserved - not decomposed bodies

- 1 87-2008 Samuels, W
- 2 87-2017 Taylor, M
- 3 87-2633 Rover, E
- 4 88-1055 Gray, S
- 5 88-3075 Edwards, E
- 6 88-3119 Lathimore, B
- 7 88-3575 Burns, A
- 8 89-323 Stewart, I
- 9 89-981 Gooden, P

Decomposed or insect altered bodies - including skeletons

- 1 86-2512 Turner, T
- 2 88-2596 Henderson, J
- 3 88-2637 Johnson, L
- 4 88-3118 Rolle, R
- 5 89-346 Harris, V
- 6 89-883 Bodie, C

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.....HARRIS, Vanessa February 28, 1989.....Case No. 89-0346
a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise

CAUSE OF DEATH:

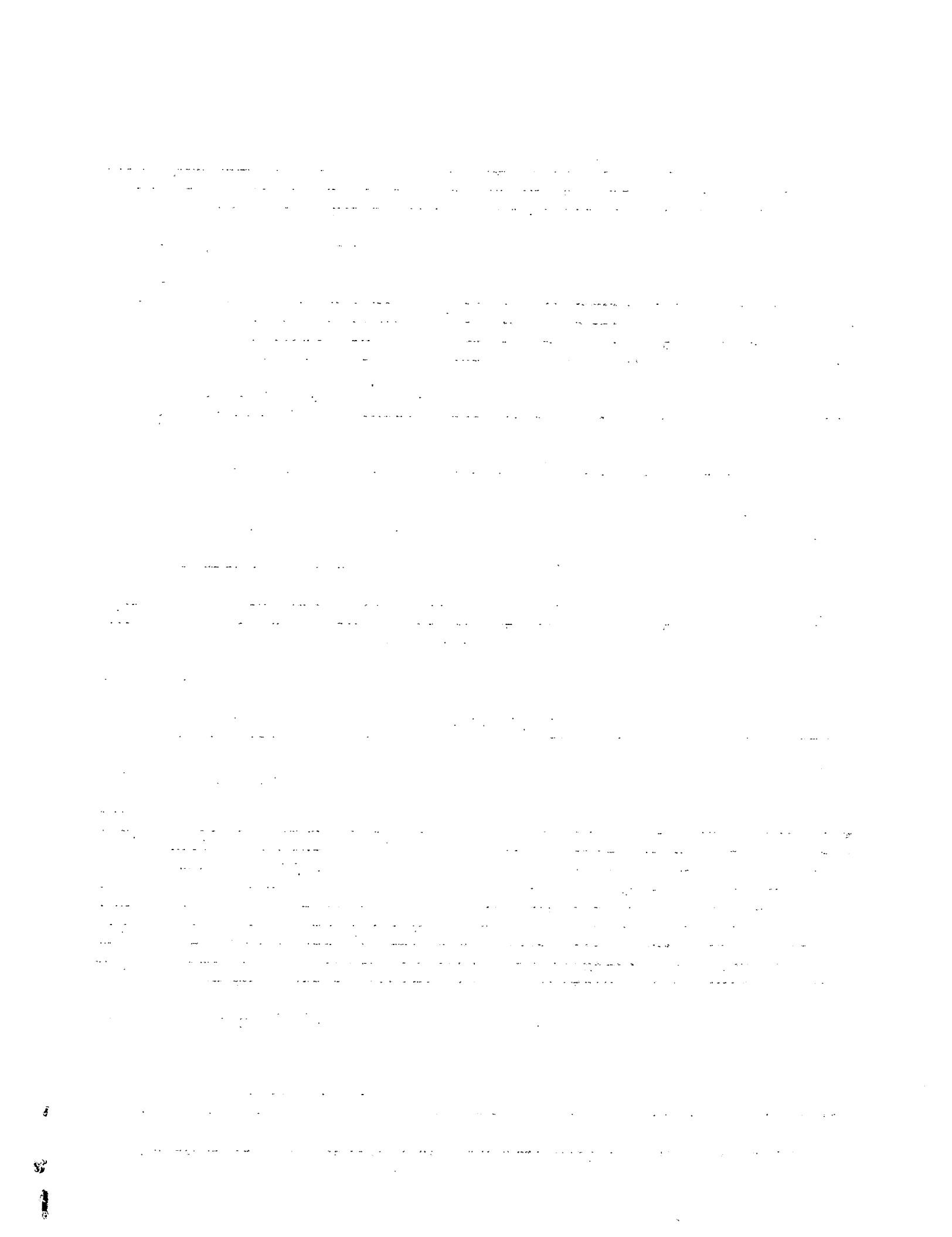
Homicide by Unspecified Means

Stephanie A. Horowitz

Stephanie A. Horowitz, M.D.
Associate Medical Examiner

Date: 6/9/89

SAH:jl



THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.....HARRIS, Vanessa February 28, 1989.....Case No. 89-0346
a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The human remains consist of a skeleton with adherent dry, brown, leathery to parchment-like skin covering over most of the trunk and extremities. Innumerable irregular holes from minute to several inches expose the bones. Most of the skin is missing from the face, left side of the skull and anterior neck. The skin on the fingers and toes is dried and mummified. Internal organs are not identifiable, with only dry, stringy tissue remaining in the pelvis and chest. The bones have a brownish discoloration and, in many places, plant roots have grown through the skin and around the bones.

INVENTORY OF BONE:

The skeleton is complete except for the thyroid cartilage, hyoid bone and right ribs one, eleven and twelve.

CLOTHING:

Clothing consists of a discolored, white, cotton tee shirt which is bunched up in the front exposing the chest. Small holes consistent with insect activity are present.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGE:

All the bony epiphyses have fused except for the ectocranial portions of the sutures.

Many teeth are missing and those present are slightly worn and carious.

The spine is without osteophytic lipping. The articular surfaces of the bones are smooth.

Examination of the articular surfaces of the ramus pubis reveals ridges consistent with phase II-III of Todd's Ten Typical Phases (The Human Skeleton in Forensic Medicine (Third Printing) Wilton M. Krogman, Charles C. Thomas Published, Springfield, Ill., pp. 94).

SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The skull has small mastoid bones and a smooth brow ridge. There is a slight occipital protuberance. The pelvis has a wide inlet and rounded sciatic notch. The pubic angle is wide.

